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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

23 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, OIR
Colonel Gerald F. Lillard, G-2
Captain Ray Malpass, ONI
Colonel Jack E. Thomas, AFON-2A
Colonel S. M. Lansing, JIG

SUBJECT : NSC Requirement for Estimate of Soviet Bloc
Capabilities through Mid-1954

1. You will recall that, when the IAC representatives considered the Board's proposed Estimates Program for 1952 at a meeting on 30 April 1952, it was mentioned that the NSC Senior Staff had expressed a desire for an estimate on the above subject in time for use in work on the FY 1954 budget, i.e., by early September. Since the proposed time period fell between that of NIE-64 and that of NIE-65, it was left that this office would look into methods of producing such a paper with minimum interference with those two projects and minimum additional workload on the IAC agencies' staffs and on the Board through meetings and otherwise.

2. It now appears likely that NIE-64, Part I, will be completed not before late August although an uncoordinated draft is now available. On NIE-65, terms of reference have been approved by the IAC representatives and a production schedule set calling for contributions on dates ranging from September 26 to October 31. It is thus more than ever clear that the contributions to NIE-65 cannot be used, as such, as the basis for an interim paper to meet the NSC requirement.

3. In view of the above, we have consulted with the Executive Secretary of the NSC and have shown him the preliminary draft of NIE-64, Part I, with a view to seeing whether the need

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cannot be met by this paper, supplemented by a short additional estimate on changes anticipated in the period between 1953 and 1954. The Executive Secretary informs us that in his judgment such a combination would meet the NSC need substantially.

4. The supplementary paper would be based squarely on the latest available draft of NIE-64, Part I, and would be addressed to the single question: "How and in what respects might the situation there portrayed be expected to change in the ensuing year?"

5. We propose to defer consideration of this supplementary paper until after NIE-64, Part I, has at least been sent to you for review. However, we believe that for scheduling purposes the supplementary paper should be given a separate number in the NIE or SE series, preferably the latter, in the near future.

6. Action:

Could you let us have your informal comments on this procedure by next Tuesday, 29 July? If this procedure appears generally satisfactory, we will formally propose the initiation of the supplementary paper as an estimate. We will be prepared to discuss questions of detail (e.g., whether formal terms of reference should be used) at any time during deliberations on NIE-64, Part I.

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Executive Secretary

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